

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 455

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to commend the brothers of the Zeta Pi chapter of Alpha Tau Omega for their many years of honorable and astute service to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the brothers of the Zeta Pi chapter of Alpha Tau Omega are such praiseworthy people who evince the greatest integrity and probity in all their chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the brothers of Alpha Tau Omega are highly respected members of the University of Tennessee at Martin community; and

WHEREAS, the Zeta Pi chapter of Alpha Tau Omega was founded in 1964; since that time, the brothers have distinguished themselves as public-spirited citizens of the highest order and as exceptional assets to their community; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, the brothers of Alpha Tau Omega, out of a desire to sponsor a more successful community service project, began the planning stages of an annual Push for St. Jude; and

WHEREAS, the next year, the Push began, with the brothers pushing a wheelbarrow from Martin to Memphis, collecting money from businesses and individuals along the way for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; to this day, the brothers use the original wheelbarrow on their annual Push, held each year during Spring Break; and

WHEREAS, though the main Push does not begin until Spring Break, the chapter participates in several "mini-pushes" throughout the year, during which time the brothers collect money outside of local businesses; and

WHEREAS, in the first year of the Push for St. Jude, the brothers succeeded in collecting donations of over \$8,000; since that year, the chapter has raised over \$300,000 for this most worthy cause; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the fraternity set a record, surpassing their goal of \$40,000 by raising \$45,000; the brothers have an eventual goal of raising \$100,000 in one year; and

WHEREAS, the chapter's donations to St. Jude's are not limited to their collection of money for the drive; they also donate blood platelets at the hospital; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this remarkable charity collection drive, the brothers of Alpha Tau Omega have participated in a number of other philanthropies and community service projects, contributing to the United Way Cooperative Project and "We Care Ministries," among many others; and

WHEREAS, these exceptional young men's remarkable success as public servants and civic leaders is directly attributable to their reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and their uncommon ability to work well with and relate to people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, the brothers of Alpha Tau Omega are truly consummate Greeks, dedicated public servants, and reliable friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the brothers of the Zeta Pi chapter of Alpha Tau Omega are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend the brothers of the Zeta Pi chapter of Alpha Tau Omega for their many years of honorable and astute service to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and salute their unswerving commitment to philanthropy and living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.